

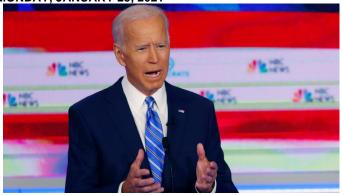


Chaptered by the National Rifle Association of America

February 2021

Biden Plots Sneak Attack Against U.S. Firearms

MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 2021



Joe Biden has unveiled his agenda for his first 100 days in the White House, and his list includes an initiative aimed at nothing less than the destruction of the U.S. firearms industry. This is what would happen if Biden succeeds in his pledge to repeal the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act.

Imagine if firearm manufactures and sellers – even those who strictly followed the laws enacted to regulate their industry – faced potential civil liability every time a criminal misused a firearm. The effect would be similar to holding automobile

makers and dealers responsible for injuries caused by drunk drivers. No business, no matter how conscientious and law-abiding, could ever survive being liable for the acts of millions of random people over whom it had no control.

And that is exactly why the law generally imposes no duty on a person or entity to control the acts of third persons to prevent them from causing harm (unless the person or entity has certain types of relationships with those causing the harm or being harmed).

Yet gun control activists in and outside of government hoped to rewrite that principle when it came to the makers and sellers of firearms. During the 1980s and '90s, a coordinated series of lawsuits against the gun industry sought to hold these businesses responsible for the criminal acts third parties committed with firearms.

The plaintiffs knew they faced an uphill climb legally, but winning cases wasn't necessarily the point. They could also prevail by bankrupting the targets of their predatory litigation by forcing them to defend multiple suits simultaneously in courts throughout the nation or by extorting industry members to adopt "best practices" that required them to follow the terms of unsuccessful gun control legislation.

This egregious abuse of the legal system to destroy an industry providing constitutionally protected goods and services sparked a bipartisan response from coast to coast. Thirty-four states passed laws to block these suits in their own courts. Finally, in 2005, Congress followed these examples by enacting the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (PLCAA) to provide a floor of protection nationwide.

While portrayed by opponents as providing "extraordinary" immunity to the firearms industry, the essence of the PLCAA is simply that the gun industry would be subject to the same rules of third party liability that apply to other businesses. Thus, the PLCAA prohibits, in state or federal court, a civil action or administrative proceeding by any person against a manufacturer or seller of a firearm, ammunition, or "component part" thereof, or a trade association, for harms resulting from the criminal/unlawful misuse of the product by the person or a third party.

Contrary to the way the PLCAA is portrayed by the antigun media and other opponents, it does not provide "absolute immunity" to unscrupulous gun companies. Most common and legitimate forms of recovery are still available to plaintiffs under the PLCAA, including those based on the manufacturers' or sellers' own violations of gun control laws or laws governing the sale or marketing of the products; negligent entrustment by sellers; breach of contract or warranty; design or manufacturing defects (when the harm was not caused by a volitional criminal act); and enforcement of federal gun control laws.

In other words, while the PLCAA has been successfully used to block litigation arising from the behavior of third parties, it allows various sorts of suits alleging harm from the manufacturers' and sellers' own bad actions.

Yet even relative parity under the law is too much for Joe Biden and his gun control collaborators. That is exactly why <u>Biden pledged during the campaign</u> to repeal the PLCAA and why <u>his agenda for his</u> first 100 days in office includes introducing legislation to accomplish this goal.

Eliminating a defense to certain forms of civil liability is not a move likely to generate the same kinds of headlines as gun bans and mandatory taxing or surrender programs (also features of Biden's larger gun control agenda).

But make no mistake, repeal of the PLCAA would potentially have even more devastating impacts than new federal prohibitions on the types of firearms Americans could own. That is because it would leave to the imaginations of thousands of greedy trial lawyers and activist judges reasons for why this or that type of firearm or ammunition is "too dangerous" to be available to the American public. These suits, moreover, would undoubtedly be underwritten by any number of billionaire activists, creating a litigation war chest that no single player in the gun industry could match.

Congress saw the existential threat these tactics posed to the industries that support America's Second Amendment, as well as its defense and security infrastructure. That is why the PLCAA enjoyed broad bi-partisan support, including from the likes of Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders.

But politics change, and now Biden believes there is an appetite in his caucus to inflict mortal damage to the U.S. firearms industry.

The NRA is determined to prevent that. But we'll need your help. More than ever, gun owners will need to be active and engaged to defend their freedoms in this perilous new political climate.

Gun Contorl Bill HR 127

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, a Texas House Representative Sheila Jackson Lee introducing HR 127. HR 127 Is One of the Worst Gun Control Bills I've Ever Seen and would require Gun Licensing, Registration and a partial Ammo ban. The text is available now and it's worse than imagined. Find bill text a

https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/127/text.

Normally, a bill like this would be read and you knew it would have a hard time passing. That's not the case now because the Democrats have control of the House, the Senate and the white house so they're going for broke. Remember the real goal of a universal background checks would be an excuse to create a national gun registry? Well, Sheila Jackson said let's stop playing, we have the house, the senate, and the white house, let's just put it all on the table and just require a registration out right; and that's exactly what HR 127 does.

This bill will require you to send a list to the ATF of every make, model, and serial number of every single gun you own and buy. You will also have to tell the government where you will be storing each gun and you will have three months to do all of this.

But here is where it gets bad, all that information you just gave to the government, including where you will be keeping all your guns, will be accessible to the public. That means criminals will not only know what guns you have; they will know exactly where you keep them. This is not a registry it's a shopping list for criminals, because they know exactly where to go and what to look for when they come and rob you because they'll have a list of all your guns in a PDF file. Understand that there are 400 million guns in this country. The government must hire people to log all this data. Guess where they are going to get the money to do this. You! in the form of taxes. Congratulations, not only will you be forced to tell criminals exactly where your guns are, you paid to do it as

This is worse than 94-crime bill. It is sad, because where do you think they are going to enforce these laws the most if this bill is passed? You think they are going to enforce them in the neighborhoods of the rich and elite?

Nah, they are coming to your neighborhood.

This bill is pure insanity and the only reason she can get away with it is because the house, the senate and the white house are being run by one party. I know a-lot of you are asking, well what can I do to stop it. The way you stop it is to let your voice be heard. Remember, the people in congress are voted in not appointed, so they only do what they think they can get away with.

If you let them know that if they continue with bills like this that they will lose your vote and enough people call, email or mail letting them know this, trust me, they will back off. People in congress do not want to lose their seat and if they think voting for something like this will jeopardize their reelection, trust me, they will stay away from it. Reach out to your representative and Sheila Jackson Lee tell them to Drop HR 127 now or they will pay for it when it comes time for reelection.

Wisconsin Senator:

Go to the following web site to see Wisconsin Representatives:

https://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/WI#representatives

Tammy Baldwin: https://www.baldwin.senate.gov/index.cfm

Ron Johnson: https://www.ronjohnson.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/email-the-senator

Texas House Representative:

Sheila Jackson Lee: https://jacksonlee.house.gov/contact/email-me

Trap shooting: A sport for all ages and abilities

By Eric Kraushar ekraushar@swpub.com Jun 25, 2020



on the clay target at a recent league competition at Watertown Gun Club. To his right is Derek Jutting, who was among those that introduced him to the team.

Riley Worm, a senior-to-be at Chaska High School, tracks

Riley Worm, a senior-to-be at Chaska High School, tracks the clay target in a recent shoot at Watertown Gun Club.

Shane Wein, left, Chaska High School Class of 2020, fires

Photo by Mark Caulfield

Derek Jutting and Shane Wein had previous experience handling firearms out in the woods hunting. But neither knew exactly what they were getting into when they joined the Chaska Chan Clay Target Team.

The thrill that comes from improvement. The thrill that comes from accomplishment. The friendships formed, the bonds created, the lessons learned from sports.

For Jutting, who graduated from Chanhassen High School in June, he quickly found out that trap shooting is more a mental test than a physical test.



Photo by Mark Caulfield

"Trap is a mind game. It's about staying focused standing there. Other people are firing on the range around you and you have to block all of that out," he said. "The thing I find the hardest is staying out of your own head. I'll catch myself saying 'stop thinking so much,' because when I'm thinking, that's when I find myself missing." Shane Wein became friends with Jutting in eighth grade. While Wein ended up at Chaska High School a year later, the two remained in touch. At Jutting's urging, as well as Wein's dad, Steve, he joined the clay target team as a sophomore.

The appeal was simple. Doing an activity that from the outside looked fun.

"Going out there, the act of shooting targets, getting better over time, that really appealed to me," Wein said. "It's really fun to be accurate and be on it. I've really enjoyed my three years on the team."

HISTORY

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources conducted an informal independent survey of gun clubs throughout Minnesota in 2001. It was determined that the average age of gun club members was almost 57 years old.

This was a problem for gun clubs, which had seen roughly 10 percent of facilities statewide close in the previous decade. Additionally, memberships had decreased, and leagues were harder to come by.

The solution lied in that something needed to be done to attract younger shooters, or the future of shooting sports would be in jeopardy.

Jim Sable, then Youth Program Director at the Plymouth Gun Club in Plymouth, suggested to start with schools.

"That's where the kids are," he said.

In 2008, the Minnesota State High School Clay Target League was started with three teams and 30 student athletes. The League doubled the number of teams and student athletes for five consecutive years. By 2014, the MNSHSCTL Championship was the largest shooting event in the world.

Sable, who retired in 2019, was the founder of the USA Clay Target League. Reported numbers for the 2019 season showed 32,810 participants and 1,042 teams in 25 states.

"When you first get there, they really stress safety. Everyone goes through firearms safety and stuff," said Jutting, who joined as a freshman. "Once you get into it, everything is so loose. Everyone is pretty chill. For me, part (of the appeal) is me wanting to get better, but it is also about the really good friends I've met."

Jutting recruited friends to the team early on. Wein accepted the challenge.

"My dad really thought I'd enjoy it. Once I got out there, tried it, I really enjoyed it," said Wein, who played lacrosse and skied early on before settling on trap shooting and robotics. "It ended up working out really good. I've met some pretty good friends.

The Chan Chaska team shoots Tuesdays and Thursdays at Watertown Gun Club. Other local teams include Prior Lake, which shoots at the Minneapolis Gun Club, and Shakopee and New Prague, which compete at the Minnesota Horse and Hunt Club in Prior Lake.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Bob Burditt has seen it all at the Minnesota Horse and Hunt Club. He's been employed there since 1989. As a 14-year-old he worked on the range, pulling the lever when players called for the birdie.

Trap machines were "crude," always breaking down back in those times, Burditt said. "Now you get one new, you unbox it and set it up and it stays perfect for years and years."

Burditt is now in charge of sporting clays and league play. The Prior Lake club launches more than a million White Flyer targets each year. Burditt said the Minnesota Horse and Hunt Club is the biggest in the state and in the top two or so in the Midwest. Nationwide, it is somewhere in the 15-to-20 range.

The club caters to the most inexperienced shooters up to the seasoned sharpshooter. Firearm safety classes are available with clay target shooting open to the public seven days a week all year long.

"For the most part, we've seen larger numbers this season. We usually have kids here from Shakopee High School, New Prague, Lakeville, St. Louis Park. New Prague High School is still shooting, but instead of like 70 or 80 kids, it is maybe 40. St. Louis Park is also small, maybe 15 to 20 kids. Shakopee and Lakeville aren't competing," Burditt said. "We've lost a lot of volume of targets not shot without those teams, but walk-up traffic has really helped make up that loss."

The Chaska Chan Clay Target Team started its league competitions in recent weeks. Instead of one shoot per week, the team is out at the club on Tuesdays and Thursdays. To maintain social distance, the groups are split into two.

"It's different coming from home, not from school. Normally you would see people and say, 'I'll see ya at trap tonight.' Other than that, it's still pretty much the same," Jutting said.

"We go out there, there's 10 minutes of prep, and then we shoot. We are not supposed to hang around. We don't have the long breaks before rounds to sit around and talk," Wein said. "It's always nice to show up to trap club and see friends. Always fun to see people I do not go to school. So, part of that is gone."

The Minnesota Horse and Hunt Club offers five distinct 50-target Sporting Clays courses, four Trap ranges, two Skeet ranges and three 25-shot FITASC courses. Guns can be rented, while shells are sold by the box or the case.

Burditt said with the state shutdown, the club was forced to close for two weeks this spring. Business was slower when it first reopened, and the normal spring and summer leagues were condensed into one 15-week league. "Everyone is happy. It's worked out really well," he said.

LOVE OF THE SHOOT

Wein remembers his first time shooting at the Watertown Gun Club.

"I had been hunting before, but I really hadn't practiced with aiming. My first time on the trap team was my first time shooting that much, and man did I suck," he laughed. "It was frustrating at first, but so much fun going from what I started out as to where I am now."

Wein recently knocked down a pair of consecutive perfect scores of 25.

"When I first started, I was shooting down probably somewhere around 11s and 12s," said Jutting, who has the top scoring average on the team, and consistently puts up scores of 25. "It's about focusing on the target, not on the end of your gun. You put your gun up first and then you watch the bird all the way. Once you get used to it, the motions the bird goes, knowing where to shoot, should I lead it or not, you can really get the hang of it."

Wein, who is headed to Northern Michigan University, plans to keep participating in the sport going forward.

Jutting, a future Minnesota State University-Mankato student, agrees.

"We have a lot of guys in their 60s and 70s that come out weekly and shoot," Burditt said. "For newer shooters, you can show up and shoot 50 targets for \$26. Your shoulder will be pretty sore after that. Lessons are available. We'll teach you methods so you can hit the target. "Even after all these years, Burditt remains in love with his job. "It's the uniqueness of the job. I am outside all the time. In the summer, in the winter. It is just really fun. I have my dogs out here with me leading hunting parties. I'm just doing something fun every day," he said.

Wisconsin Firearm Owners Upcoming Events and News

WFO annual meeting was virtually held on January 25, 2021. We have three board members that were re-elected, and one new board member.

The election went as follows:

Dave Holub received 32 votes, Lane Ruhlan-30 votes, Paul Reynolds-16 votes and our new board member, Tom Jones-26 votes. Congratulations to all of you.

Our former WFO president Mike Stewart has stepped down after two terms on the board. Thank you, Mike, for your six years of service to Wisconsin Firearm Owners.

Wisconsin Firearm Owners

Senior Service Rifle Team



With the over whelming number of competitors in 2019 wanting to compete in the adult team match, in 2021 Wisconsin is planning on having an adult team again. Tom Jones, team captain, has come up with the following criteria to be on the team: You must show interest in being on the team by sending in three match scores from 2021, starting in April 2021. One of the three must be an EIC match. You also must state whether you would like to be on an in competition team, or out of competition. Other requirements are to have shot in at least one of the state OTC matches and help with fundraising. Competitors interested in being on the team can send match scores to wiscoreroster@gmail.com.



- Wisconsin Firearm Owners gives you a voice in Madison to protect your <u>Second</u> <u>Amendment Rights</u>.
- We are the only NRA State Chartered Association in Wisconsin.
- WFO and the NRA led the lobbying efforts for Right to Carry and The Shooting Ranges Protection Act.
- WFO provides Club and Range support for those looking to expand and improve their ranges.
- As your NRA and CMP State Association, WFO sanctions State Championships for multiple shooting disciplines.
- Our lobbying efforts have helped to clean up Wisconsin's handgun restrictions.
- Advancing hunter rights and mentored hunting in Wisconsin.

JOIN US TODAY TO HELP PROTECT YOUR GUN RIGHTS. https://www.wisconsinfirearmowners.org/

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Mail To: <u>Wisconsin Firearm Owners PO Box 130 Seymour, WI 54165</u> I certify that I am not now, and never have been, a member of any organization which has in any part of its program, the atte to overthrow the government of the United States by force or violence, and that I have never been convicted of a felony, cri of violence, or misdemeanor domestic violence, and I am not otherwise prohibited from owning firearms. If admitted to membership in Wisconsin Firearm Owners, Ranges, Clubs & Educators Inc. I will fulfill the obligations of good sportsmans and I will uphold the Constitution of the United States of America and the Second Amendment thereto.
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https://www.friendsofnra.org/



https://kriegerbarrels.com/



http://www.nosler.com/



http://www.bruxbarrels.com/



http://www.vortexoptics.com/



http://www.hodgdonreloading.com/



http://www.halltitle.com/



http://www.wisconsintrigger.com/

Wood County Rifle and Pistol Club

http://www.wcrifle.org/

Racine County Line

Rifle Club
Devoted to the Shooting
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https://www.racinecountylinerifleclub.com/

HOLUB MACHINE & REPAIR, LLC

http://www.newhighpower.com/

Central Wisconsin Gun Collectors Association http://www.centralwisconsingun.org/





https://www.chippewafoundry.com/



https://bartleinbarrels.com/







Wisconsin Firearm Owners (WFO)

Mission

To promote and support the purpose and objectives of the National Rifle Association, while protecting and defending the Constitutions of the United States and the State of Wisconsin.

Securing Our Rights

The assaults on the rights of today's firearms owner have never been stronger. These attacks on our civil rights come from anti-hunting, anti-gun, and

anti-civil rights organizations. We must stand together to preserve the rights guaranteed to all free citizens under the Second Amendment, the U.S. Constitution, and the Wisconsin Right to Keep and Bear Arms. WTO has a constant presence in Madison helping to ensure your voice is heard. Whether it is the right to self-defense, micro stamping or hunting regulations, we are involved. Combine your voice with that of thousands like you in Wisconsin; our united voice cannot be ignored.

Club and Range Support

We are the experts in the State advising the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, clubs, and businesses in upgrading, improving, and the design of ranges.

Competitions

Matches and events are listed on our calendar. Match Directors can also utilize our on-line registration.

NRA discipline championships are authorized and promoted by WTO. Please join us today!

Leupold Discontinues the Venerable VX-3i Riflescope and Replaces it With a Brighter, Tougher VX-3HD

The new Leupold VX-3HD is a worthy new star in the versatile riflescope category

By <u>Andrew McKean</u> January 29, 2021



A sneak peek at the new Leupold VX-3HD. Leupold
I like simple things that work. Buttons—not zippers—on
my Carhartt jacket. The liner lock on my KA-BAR folder.
My Hi-Lift jack that has traveled hundreds of thousands of
miles in the bed of various pickups that weren't half as
tough.

And my <u>Leupold VX-3</u> riflescopes. I must have a half dozen of these simple, reliable Leupold scopes on various rifles. They personify Leupold's Gold Ring promise: hardwearing, gimmick-free optics that don't weigh much and don't lose their zero from season to season.

So I was alarmed when my buddy Ryan texted me just after Christmas. He was shopping around for a VX-3i scope to mount on his new Alterra rifle. "Am I crazy or is Leupold discontinuing the entire VX-3i line?"

This was news to me. I checked out Leupold's website for myself, and sure enough, every VX-3i (the "i" designation does not stand for "illuminated" as you might think, but served as a new-and-improved differentiator from the original VX-3, introduced a full 40 years ago) was shown as unavailable. So I forwarded Ryan's text to my buddies at Leupold, hoping for an explanation.

What I got instead was a box in Leupold's signature black-and-gold trim. Inside was the new VX-3HD, the next generation of the venerable scope. My sample was in 4.5-14x40, just about right for every hunting rifle on my rack. Inside was a terse note: "Discontinued, never. Evolving into the VX-3HD, yes." That was my introduction to the latest star in the Gold Ring firmament, which will officially launch next week. So...first impressions? It's light. My configuration tips the scales at 14.4 ounces—right in line with the same configuration in the VX-3i line—making it a good choice for a walk-about bolt rifle. It's simple. Mine has the Fine Duplex reticle with a clean and fast-aiming crosshair. And it's customizable. Mine has Leupold's user-friendly ZeroLock uncapped elevation turret that accepts a CDS, or Leupold's load-specific custom dial.

The throw lever on the author's VX-3HD. Andrew McKean
The VX-3HD has a couple of improved features over its parent. First is the optics. The new scopes are built around the "Elite Optical System," which could sound like marketing confetti if the glass wasn't this bright, with glare-cutting coatings. My sample comes with a knurled, removable throw lever on the magnification dial. And the turret clicks are more positive and tactile than those of the "old" VX-3i line, which I classified as mushy and indistinct in our annual optics test.

Prices, according to Leupold, will range from \$500 to \$1,000, so a bit of a step up from the VX-3 line but solidly in the middle of the market.

The new Leupold VX-3HD on the author's coyote rifle. Andrew McKean





I have my sample mounted on my .257 Weatherby. It's coyote season, and I have a round of 85-grain Noslers ready for action. I anticipate some version of the new VX-3HD will be submitted in this year's Outdoor Life optics test, where we'll give it full-on evaluation, measuring its optical resolution, low-light performance, and turret tracking. I'm eager to see how it stands up to its peers, such as the Zeiss Conquest V4, Vortex's Razor HD, new Mavens, and the Toric from Tract.

But, for now, I can let Ryan know that while the VX-3i is officially retired, the VX-3HD is a worthy descendant.

No End in Sight for High Firearm Demand, License to Carry Applications

January 2021 set another record of background checks for gun purchases and License to Carry applications in Texas and across the country.



(The Texan/Daniel Friend)

DANIEL FRIEND

In November 2008, the same month that Barack Obama won his first presidential election, the number of firearm background checks shot past 1.5 million — then a new record and a 42 percent increase from the previous November.

Over the course of his administration, Obama was hailed by Ammo.com as "the greatest gun salesman in America."
But the vice president under Obama who now sits in the Oval Office, President Joe Biden, may take that title from his former superior if the current trend continues.

Based on the <u>data</u> from National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS), Small Arms

Analytics and Forecasting (SAAF) <u>estimates</u> that there were 2.2 million firearms unit sales in January 2021, a 79 percent increase from January 2020.

"January 2021 certainly started off with a sales 'bang' due to the turmoil surrounding the confirmation and inauguration of Mr. Biden as the new U.S. President," said SAAF Chief Economist Jurgen Brauer.

However, though gun sales are higher than a decade ago, Brauer notes that the spike seen in January has happened before.

"[A]n even higher increase, of just over 100 [percent], was experienced in January 2013, the month Mr. Obama's second presidential term began," said Brauer.

Though 2020 was a <u>record-shattering year</u> for gun sales and NICS checks for many reasons, January 2021 was another record-setting month with 4.3 million checks conducted across the country — a 62 percent increase from a year earlier.

Texas set a new record for the month of January at 212,000 checks, up 3 percent from <u>December</u> and 65 percent from January 2020, and is the highest number recorded since June.

More specific data show that during the past month in Texas:

- 84,000 checks were for purchases of handguns, up five percent from December and 56 percent from the year before;
- 59,000 checks were License to Carry applications, the highest ever for a single month in Texas, a 20 percent increase from December, and a 98 percent increase from last year;
- And 47,000 checks were for long gun purchases, a decline of 20 percent from December but an increase of 62 percent from last year.

Similar statistics were seen at the national level:

- 624,000 checks were for new carry permits, up 14 percent from December and 47 percent from January 2020;
- 1.6 million checks were for permit rechecks in states like Kentucky and Indiana, which require frequent background checks for active holders of carry permits;
- 1.1 million checks were for handgun purchases, up 16 percent from December and 75 percent from last year;
- And 713,000 checks were for long gun purchases, down seven percent from December but up 88
 percent from a year ago.

At the federal level, Biden vowed to pursue a long list of gun control measures, with many requiring passage through the narrowly-Democratic House of Representatives and the even more narrowly-Democratic Senate. Some of Biden's proposed measures, such as a ban on the import of "assault weapons," he says could be enacted via executive order, but the president has not yet taken that action.

In the ongoing state legislative session, where Republicans control both the upper and lower chambers, several pro-Second Amendment bills have been introduced, ranging from constitutional carry to prohibiting the enforcement of federal gun control measures that are not in state law.

Such legislation has been proposed before, but never mustered enough support to pass through the House and Senate.

Texas Democrats have also introduced various pieces of gun control legislation, which some Republicans have previously indicated support for, but advocates of the most wide-sweeping gun control bills will face an uphill battle.